



From June 2019 (Volume 101)

"Don't know
about you. But I
just can't get
used to high rise
living"





June 2019.

At the time of making up this latest Photo History I reflect on the weather we have experienced this year. Torrential rainfall and some pretty chilly days, nothing like the norm for late June. Today is forecast as the year's hottest day however and France has had over 40 degrees in some areas.

Having been assembling these Photo History's for many years it was an easy thing to find shots of how Battersea Power Station looked after its closure and prior to development on the public open day— Oct 8th 2006. I have contrasted the shots with shots taken now (2019) in the following pages.

After some really challenging weather in July, where everyone felt exhausted with the humidity and heat the weather changed with temperature dropping from a high of 38 degrees to 22 degrees the next day.

We really enjoyed our 4 night break in Matera and have done a few UK (more local) walks since then.

Tammy and Ben are happy and Ben is now working out his notice having been offered an excellent position with an American Bank so we wish him great luck with that.

DP seems happy travelling around quite a lot and there may be a 'new love' in his life but I will not say more until it is more definite. I am planning to trek in Nepal in November (taking some money I collected to Sikles school there and have planned to trek with Ivor but he has pretty serious ankle and leg problems which I fear will prevent him going. This is a real shame on many counts as we are great pals and would enjoy the trek together but more importantly is the effect that this has on a really fit sporty guy having to curtail his physical activities. I just hope that this will be sorted with surgery and he is able to continue, albeit, after some recuperation time.

There is a possibility that DP may accompany me (even with his girlfriend) or failing that Lynn might (reluctantly) stand in ...but all these 'eventualities' are dependent on Ivor's decision...but I feel I know what it will be.

Angela and the kids are well settled in their new house and we got them some deckchairs and plants so they can enjoy the sun. The kids are really lovely and we all keep in touch. Hopefully, now they are older they can come to London alone and stay with us in holiday times.

Larnie is off to Majorca with Jake and family and it is 4 years today that they have been together...where has all that time gone...she was only a 'wee mite' with us in Tuscany in what seems a few weeks ago.

Lynn, my lovely missus is great and we constantly laugh together and yes, we still bicker constantly,...but that's the way we are.

Again, we seem to have made some terrific new friends but importantly, not forsaken the old friends

We are going out with Jenny and Ronnie today (July 2019) which is great after losing touch with them for such a long period and neither of them are very well so this should be a happy reconciliation, remembering what fun we all had together in the past.

The 100th edition is nearly finished now (just waiting for the last few 'possible' hence my continuing with these later 'Photo History' books.

We went for a train trip to Liverpool yesterday (27th July 2019) and it was a total day of rain getting heavier by the hour and despite enjoying the great sights of a fascinating city we were both glad to get on the train back home. (The photos will be in a following book).

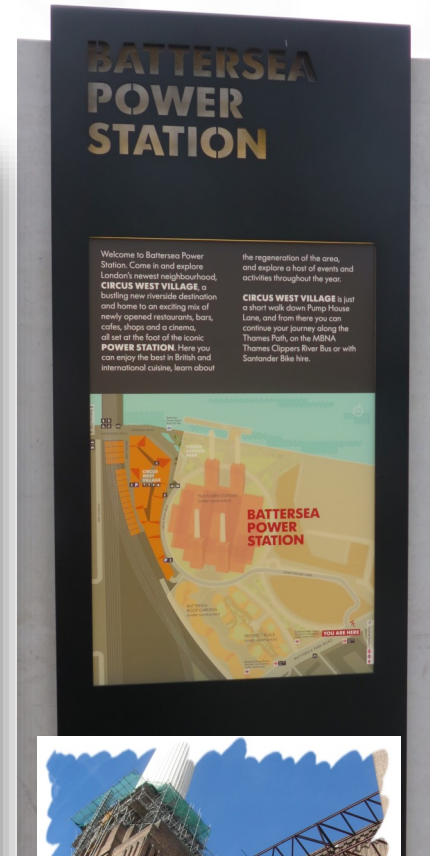
Always busy and making the most of every minute is our mantra but man..."it's really fun...but it's tiring"



Lots of interest for a 'one-off' experience to see this great building in its final 'original' state

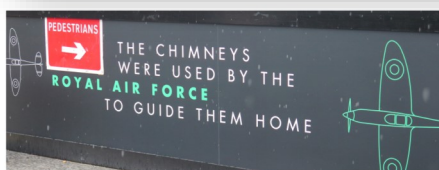


October 8th 2006



October 8th 2006





THE POWER STATION
SUPPLIED POWER TO
BUCKINGHAM PALACE





In combining these older shots with these latest ones I did some research into the background and I have detailed some of this information here.

Battersea Power Station is a decommissioned coal-fired power station, located on the south bank of the River Thames, in Nine Elms, Battersea, in the London Borough of Wandsworth. It was built by the London Power Company to the design of Leonard Pearce, Engineer in Chief to the LPC

The building comprises two power stations, built in two stages in a single building. **Battersea A Power Station** was built in the 1930s and **Battersea B Power Station**, to its east, in the 1950s. They were built to a near-identical design, providing the four-chimney structure.

The Power Station was decommissioned between 1975 and 1983 and remained empty until 2014. It was designated as a Grade II listed building in 1980, upgraded in 2007

The station is one of the world's largest brick buildings and notable for its original, lavish interior fittings and decor. The structure remained largely unused for more than 30 years after its closure; in 2008 its condition was described as "very bad 2 by English Heritage

Since the station's closure, redevelopment plans have been drawn up by successive site owners. In 2004, when a redevelopment project by Parkview International stalled, the site was sold to the administrators of Irish company Real Estate Opportunities (REO), who bought it for £400 million in November 2006 with plans to refurbish the station for public use and build 3,400 homes on the site. This plan fell through due to REO's debt being called in by the state-owned banks of the UK and Ireland. The site was again put up for sale in December 2011 through commercial estate agent Knight Frank. The combination of an existing debt burden of some £750 million, the need to make a £200 million contribution to an extension to The London Underground requirements to fund conservation of the derelict power station shell, and the presence of a waste transfer station and cement plant on the river frontage made commercial development of the site a significant challenge.

The original proposal sparked protests from those who felt that the building would be too large and would be an eyesore, as well as worries about the pollution damaging local buildings and parks The company addressed the former concern by hiring Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to design the building's exterior. He was a distinguished architect and industrial designer, famous for his design for the red telephone box. He subsequently designed another London power station, Bankside ,

On 20 April 1964, the power station was the site of a fire that caused power failures throughout London, including at the BBC Television Centre which was due to launch BBC 2 that night. The launch was delayed until the following day at 11 am.

Design and specification

Italian marble was used in the turbine hall, and polished parquet floors and wrought iron staircases were used throughout.

Each of the two connected stations consists of a long boiler house with a chimney at each end and an adjacent turbine hall .The station is the largest brick structure in Europe. The building's gross dimensions measure 160 metres (520 ft) by 170 metres (560 ft), with the roof of the boiler house standing at over 50 metres (160 ft). Each of the four chimneys is made from concrete and stands 103 metres (338 ft) tall with a base diameter of 8.5 metres (28 ft) tapering to 6.7 metres (22 ft) at the top. The station also had jetty facilities for unloading coal, a coal sorting and storage area, control rooms and an administration block.

Coal transportation

The power station consumed over 1,000,000 tonnes of coal annually, delivered by coastal collier ships. They were "flat-irons" with a low-profile superstructure and fold-down funnels and masts to fit under the Thames' bridges above the Pool of London. Coal was usually delivered to the jetty where two cranes, capable of unloading two ships at a time at a rate of 480 tonnes an hour, offloaded coal. Some coal was delivered by rail to the east of the station from the Brighton Main Line which passes nearby. A conveyor belt system moved the coal to a storage area or directly to the station's boiler rooms. Water system

Water, essential to a thermal power station is used to condense steam from the steam turbines before it is returned to the boiler. Water cycled through the power station's systems was taken from the Thames. Once the water had been through the station's systems, it was cooled and discharged into the river.

After the end of World War II, the London Power Company used the waste heat to supply the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking



Closure and redevelopment

The station's demise was caused by cleaning. On 17 March 1975, the A station was put down largely to the electricity generation shifting from coal

by its output falling with age, coupled with increased operating costs, such as flue gas. Station was closed after being in operation for 40 years. The closure of the two station-generating equipment becoming outdated, and the preferred choice of fuel for electricity toward oil, gas & nuclear power

Theme park proposal

Following the station's closure, the Central Generating Board had planned to demolish the station and sell the land for housing, but because of the building's then Grade 11 listed status, they had to pay the high cost of preserving the building. In 1983 they held a competition for ideas on the redevelopment of the site. It was won by a consortium led by developer David Roche and which included John Broome, owner of Alton Towers Ltd. This consortium proposed an indoor theme park with shops and restaurants. At an estimated cost of £35 million, the scheme was risky and would require over 2 million visitors a year to make any profit. The scheme received planning approval in May 1986 and the site was purchased by John Broome for £1.5 million in 1987. Work on converting the site began the same year.

The project was halted in March 1989, for lack of funding, after costs had quickly escalated that January, from £35 million to £230 million. By this point huge sections of the building's roof had been removed, so that machinery could be taken out. Without a roof, the building's steel framework has been left exposed and its foundations have been prone to flooding.

In March 1990, the proposal was changed to a mixture of offices, shops and a hotel. This proposal was granted planning permission in August 1990, despite opposition from 14 independent organisations. Despite permission being granted, no further work took place on the site between 1990 and 1993.

Parkview proposal

In 1993, the site and its outstanding debt of £70 million were bought from the Bank of America by Hong Kong-based development company, Parkview International for £10 million. Following resolution of creditors' claims, it acquired the freehold title in May 1996. In November 1996 plans for the redevelopment of the site were submitted and outline consent was received in May 1997. Detailed consent for much of the site was granted in August 2000, and the rest in May 2001. The company received full possession of the site in 2003. Having purchased the site, Parkview started work on a £1.1 billion project to restore the building and to redevelop the site into a retail, housing and leisure complex.

During the Parkview era several masterplans for the site were developed by various architects and subsequently discarded. One notable plan, called simply "The Power Station", was proposed with a shopping mall, 40 to 50 restaurants, cafés and bars, 180 shops, as well as nightclubs, comedy venues and a cinema. Cosmopolitan shops would have been sited in the A Station's turbine hall, and label name shops in the B Station's turbine hall. The boiler house would have been glazed over and used as a public space for installations and exhibitions. A riverside walkway would also be created, running continuously along the riverside from Vauxhall to Battersea Park

Parkview claimed that 3,000 jobs would be created during the construction of the project, and 9,000 would be employed once completed, with an emphasis on local recruitment. The Battersea Power Station Community Group campaigned against the Parkview plan and argued for an alternative community-based scheme to be drawn up. The group described the plans as "a deeply unattractive project that has no affordable housing anywhere on the 38-acre (150,000 m²) site, no decent jobs for local people and no credible public transport strategy". They also criticised how appropriate the project was in its location, and proposal of other large buildings on the site. Keith Garner of the group said "I feel that there's a real problem of appropriateness. They need a completely different kind of scheme, not this airport-lounge treatment. What you see now is a majestic building looming up from the river. If you surround it with buildings 15 storeys high, you don't have a landmark any more." In 2005 Parkview, English Heritage and the London Borough of Wandsworth claimed that the reinforcement inside the chimneys was corroded and irreparable. Wandsworth Council granted permission for them to be demolished and rebuilt. Parkview claimed to have given a legally binding undertaking to the council to provide certainty that the chimneys will be replaced "like for like", in accordance with the requirements of English Heritage and the planning authorities.

REO proposal

On 30 November 2006, it was announced that Real Estate Opportunities, led by Irish businessmen Richard Barrett and Johnny Ronan of Treasury Holdings had purchased Battersea Power Station and the surrounding land for €532 million (£400 million). REO subsequently announced that the previous plan by Parkview had been dropped and that it had appointed the practice of the Uruguayan-born architect Rafael Vinoly of New York as the new master planner for the site. The centrepiece of this masterplan was a 980-foot-high "eco tower" that dwarfed the power station and was described by London's then mayor Boris Johnson as an "inverted toilet-roll holder". The tower was quickly dropped from the scheme. Jersey law firms, Ogier, Carey Olsen and Mourant Oxannes helped REO to raise funds for the new Battersea Power Station redevelopment.



Work commenced in 2013 and plans include the restoration of the art deco structure internally and externally, reconstruction of the chimneys, and refurbishment of the historic cranes and jetty as a new river taxi stop. The plan includes over 800 homes of varying sizes, and sales of residential apartments in Phase 1 of the redevelopment began in January 2013 with around 75 per cent of townhouses and apartments being sold within four days. Construction work on Phase 1, called Circus West, The full redevelopment consists of seven main phases, some of which are planned to run concurrently. Phase 1 is due to complete in 2016/17 with the Northern line extension and requisite new Battersea Power Station terminal anticipated to complete in 2020.

In popular culture

Battersea Power Station has become an iconic structure, being featured in or used as a shooting location for many films, television programmes, music videos and video games. One of the station's earliest appearances on film was in Alfred Hitchcock's 1936 film *Sabotage* which shows the station before the construction of the B station. The interior of the A station's control room was used for the "Find The Fish" segment of Monty Python's 1983 film *The Meaning of Life*. The station makes a brief appearance in The Beatles second film "Help! " in 1965. It also appears during the first daylight attack on London sequence in the 1969 movie, *Battle of Britain* in the movie as in real life used as a navigational landmark by the attacking Luftwaffe bombers. More recently in October 2007, the power station was used as a filming location for the *Batman* movie, *The Dark Knight* The station's stripped, empty interior was used as a setting for a burnt out warehouse.^[65] A closeup of the station can be seen as stand-in for the exterior of a London railway station in Michael Radford's 1984 film *Nineteen eighty-Four*

The station has appeared numerous times in the long-running British science fiction series *Doctor Who*. It appeared briefly in the story *The Dalek Invasion of Earth* in 1964, which saw the station in the 22nd century with two chimneys demolished, and a nearby nuclear reactor dome.

The Battersea Power Station Community Group think one of the main reasons for the power station's worldwide recognition is that it appeared on the cover of Pink Floyd's 1977 album *Animals* on which it was photographed with the group's inflatable pink pig floating above it. The photographs were taken in early December 1976 . The inflatable pig was tethered to one of the power station's southern chimneys, but broke loose from its moorings and, to the astonishment of pilots in approaching planes, drifted into the flight path of Heathrow Airport



In the middle of major construction-July 2019







Oct 8th 2006





Photo History

These dials monitored current and voltage for The Switch House Operators



Ceramic & Metal Resistor used to control the electrical current coming from the turbines





After the roof had been removed to take out heavy machinery, the foundations were prone to flooding and the building's steel framework had been left exposed

Oct 8th 2006



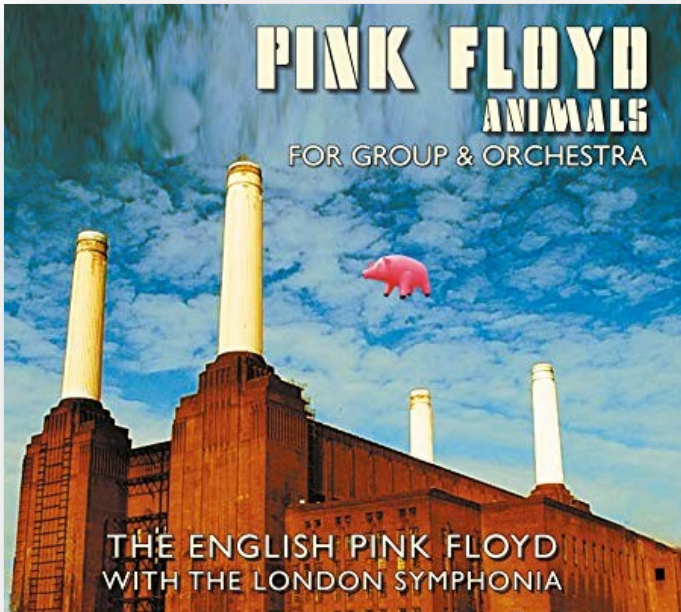




Photo History

June 2019



Oct 8th 2006



June 2019



June 2019



June 2019



June 2019







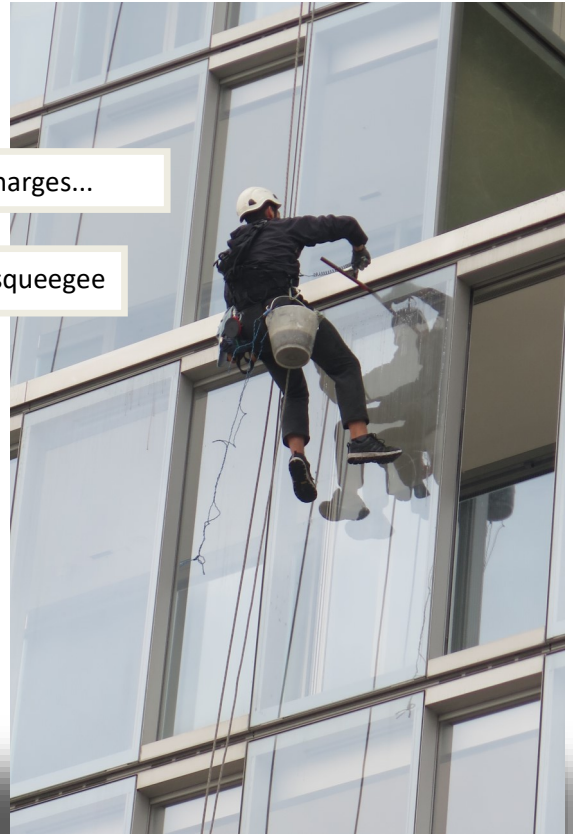


Photo History



We agreed that he deserves every penny he charges...

..but rumour has it that he has put in a requisition for a larger squeegee



The contrast of buildings with this high-rise residential block directly next to this power station being renovated is superb



We walked along the Thames with Cyril and Viv and chatted to one of the crew involved in the Tideway Super Sewer which is a major construction project. It transpired he was the barge master and that the massive crane on a platform in the river was actually a barge and the hydraulic legs could be raised and it was then ready to be towed to a new river location. This prompted me to look at some more information about this project especially after seeing the original Bazeljett sewer system last month.

The Thames Tideway Tunnel is an under-construction 25 km tunnel running mostly under the tidal section of the River Thames through central London, which will provide capture, storage and conveyance of almost all the combined raw sewage and rainwater discharges that currently overflow into the river. It will prevent the tens of millions of tonnes of pollution that currently pollute the River Thames every year.

This necessary expansion of London's sewer network is due for completion in 2024, and is happening across 24 construction sites in London. These span from Acton in West London to Beckton in the East, and many are located on the river edge in the centre of the city.

Until the tunnel is built, the river is being treated like a toilet. Raw sewage flows directly into the Thames when it rains, as this is the only way to stop homes and streets from flooding when the existing Victorian sewers overflow.

London relies on a 150-year-old sewer system built for a population less than half its current size. As a result, millions of tonnes of raw sewage spills, untreated, into the River Thames each year. The team has faced complex engineering feats – building seven new pieces of land in the Thames, including at Chelsea, Blackfriars and Putney, and digging five giant shafts up to 50m deep below London.

Tideway is now updating its estimate of overall costs to £3.52bn which represents an 8% increase.

"To build the super sewer we are working in an unforgiving tidal river in the centre of one of the busiest cities in the world. We have got train lines and bridges above our heads, and the tube and utility pipes below our feet.

Construction is taking place at 23 sites across the city and Tideway is using the river instead of roads as far as possible to build the project, cutting the impact on road congestion and air quality



This site marks the centre of the Thames Tideway Tunnel – a 25km sewer that will stop millions of tonnes of raw sewage from spilling into the River Thames. From here, two giant tunnelling machines began their underground journeys east and west and are digging away right now.

All the excavated earth is being removed by barge (keeping thousands of lorries off London's roads), and when we're finished in 2024, we'll pack up this site and you won't even know we were here (apart from the cleaner river we're leaving behind).

#SuperSewer



It is amazing that such a major project is not widely known and is apparently one of the biggest commercial civic projects in Europe.





Photo History

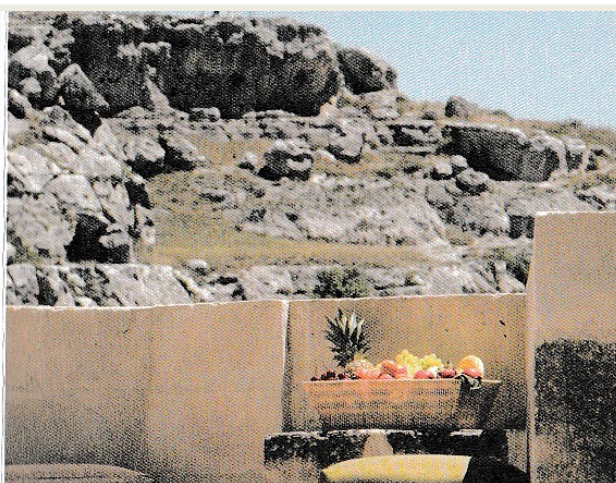
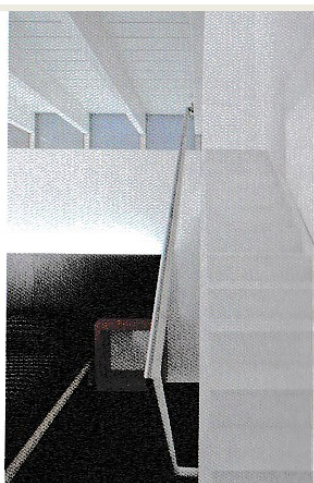




July 2019. We flew from Luton to Bari airport in Southern Italy then took a bus to Matera where we stayed for 4 nights, taking a train back to Bari and returning to Stanstead.

Matera was designated as a Unesco World Heritage site in 1993 and as the European Cultural City of 2019 but is still relatively unknown, even in Italy. It was considered the 'shame' of Italy with people still living in caves up to the 1950's without water or sanitation.

As locals were rehoused in more modern Matera on the outskirts, the original caves (I Sassi) were carefully preserved without any obvious new facades etc and the result is a fascinating city in the hills with numerous caves containing churches, restaurants, hotels, art galleries and bars. The whole city consisted of small alleys and steps everywhere and was totally delightful and we felt it would be a real tourist destination in years to come but at



The hotel has 11 spacious rooms with independent access. It has opened in 2010 after restoration works that provided it with all modern and technological comfort. The rooms are of different sizes, partly built and partly caved out of the soft local tufa stone. In some rooms you can see the traditional bell-shaped cisterns that natives have used for the collection of rain water since the Neolithic Age. The design evokes the fascination of the prehistoric caves that you can see from the windows on the opposite Murgia plateau.



Basiliani is a design hotel located in the Sassi of Matera, in one of the oldest and most extraordinary settings where there is evidence of human settlements dating back to the Neolithic Age. The design elaborates the minimal structure of the traditional cave-house in a contemporary perspective, contrasting modernity with the past with a perfect balance. The hotel overlooks the Gravina canyon district and the Parco Archeologico delle Chiese Rupestri, both Unesco sites since 1993. It is in a central position, just a short walk from the most interesting points of cultural interest of the town.

BASILIANI HOTEL***

Rione Casalnuovo, 115
75 100, Matera

Tel + 39 0835 319474

Fax + 39 0835 318830

Mobile +39 328 5323072

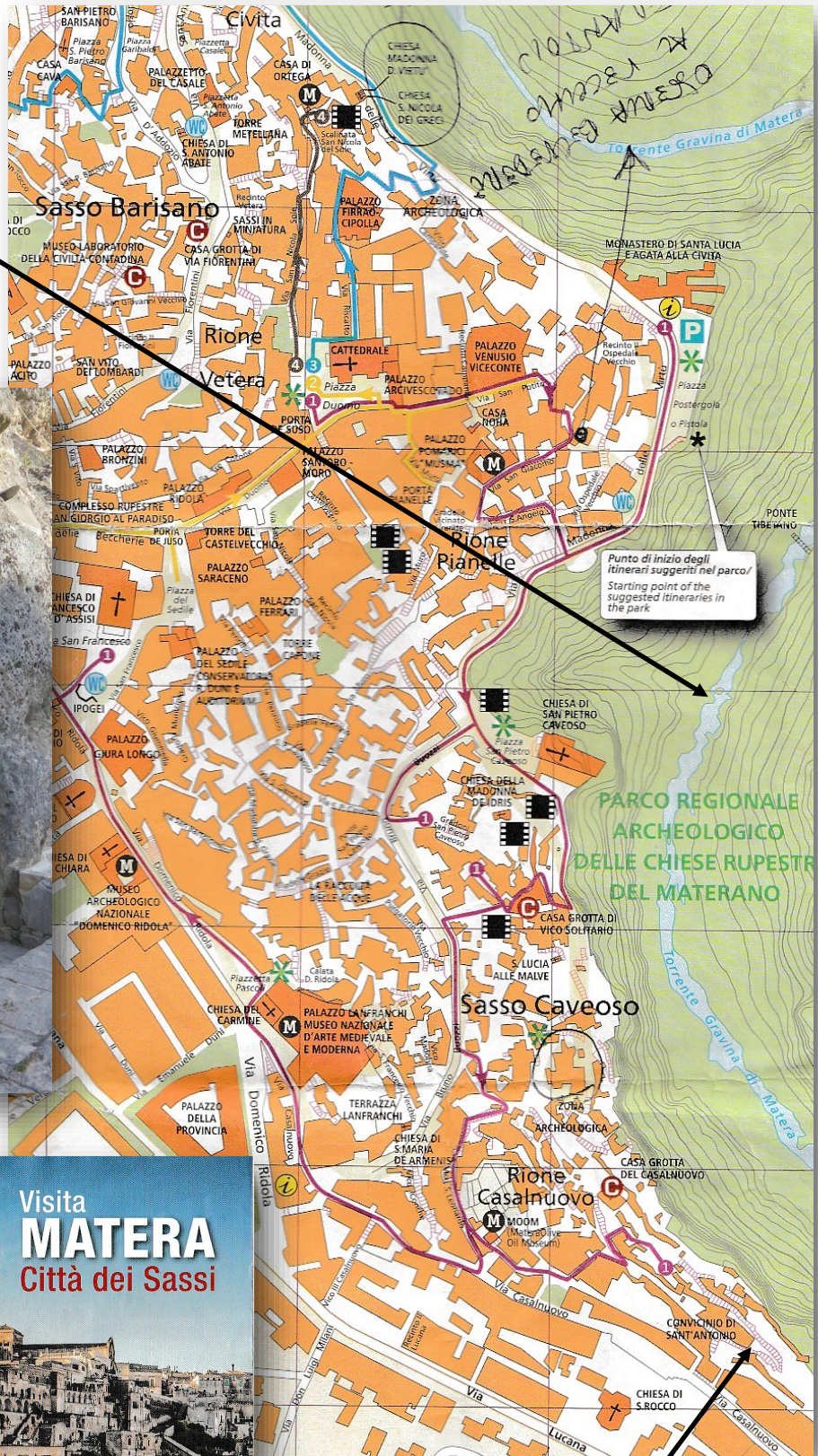
www.basilianihotel.com



Photo History



Our 'cave' overlooked this deep gorge in the valley below Matera with the Gravina di Matera Torrente running through it



The whole area where our 'cave hotel' was situated was riddled with old caves, very few of which were inhabited, and steep steps, wound between them



Photo History



The footbridge over the gorge



One of the many viewpoints in Matera







It was a wonderful place to wonder around and became totally different at night





Glass floor section showing the ancient cisterns below the cave



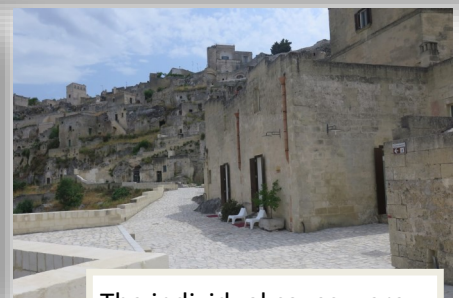
The table and seats were lit from inside



Our fascinating cave hotel room



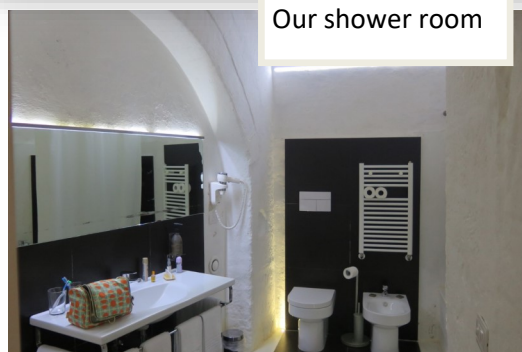
The small cave breakfast area



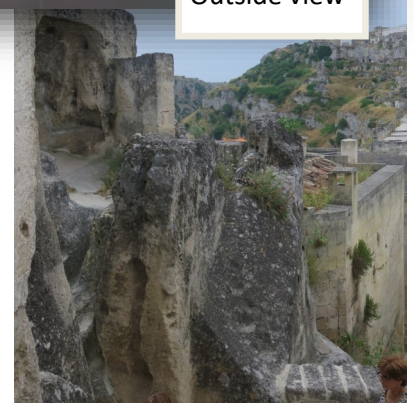
The individual caves were all part of the total hotel



Part of the large bedroom



Our shower room



Outside view



Photo History



We had a lovely meal at Annina (named after the owner's mother) but as there was a previous torrential storm it was very quiet so he had time to chat with us. It was deep underground with many interesting alcoves and ornaments



Santa Lucia Alle Malve



A small cave church adjacent to our cave hotel but very atmospheric with faint icons in the alcoves

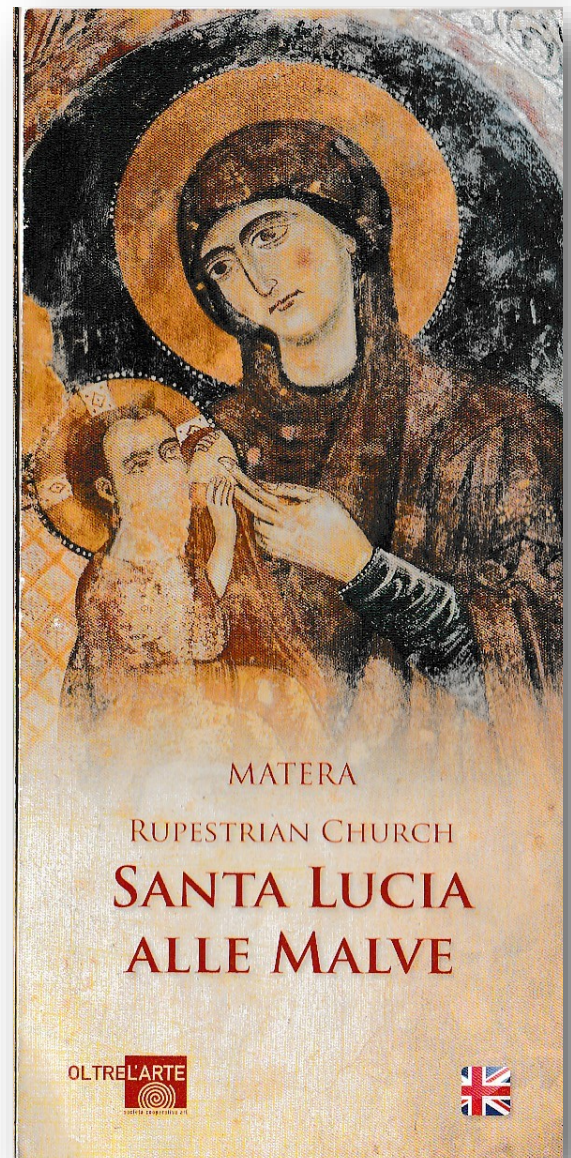




Photo History





Photo History



Hidden away in a small courtyard this small family restaurant set in a cave was a real find. Fun and friendly service of a small but beautifully-cooked menu. Lots of people were turned away when they appeared at the top of the steps







We visited three cave churches and this one; San Pietro Barisano was a wonderful setting for some really great art and the restoration work was ongoing. The crypts had corpse drainage areas which took place prior to burial



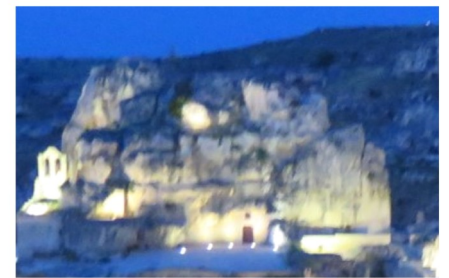


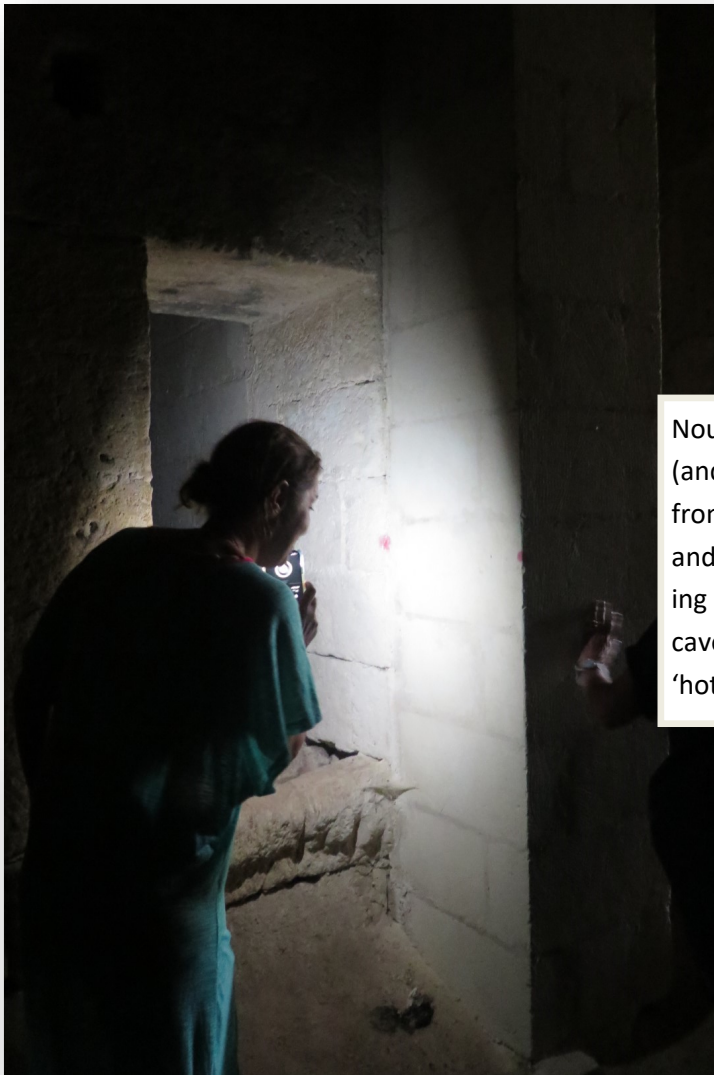


Photo History



Matera at night took on a whole different beauty that was breath-taking





Nouchine Kramer
(and her family
from Geneva)
and Lynn explor-
ing an old unused
cave next to our
'hotel' cave

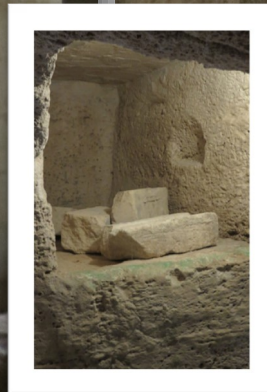
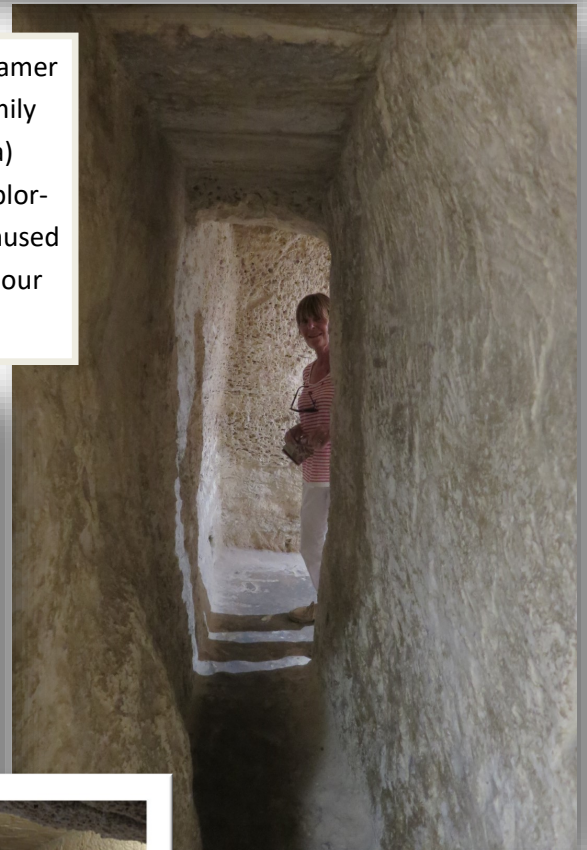




Photo History



Lots of fascinating places all round Matera



Lynn found a few lovely hand-knitted designs in this small cave shop







One day we bought fresh local ricotta, prosciutto ham, artisan bread, yoghurt and a cold drink and sat in the square and enjoyed a great feast



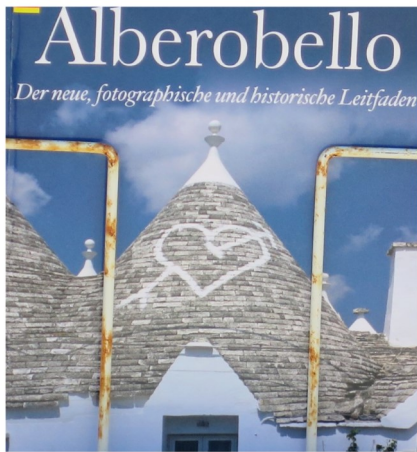
A local rehearsal included a choir with wonderful singing, a baritone and jazz singing and some beautiful singing in this lovely setting





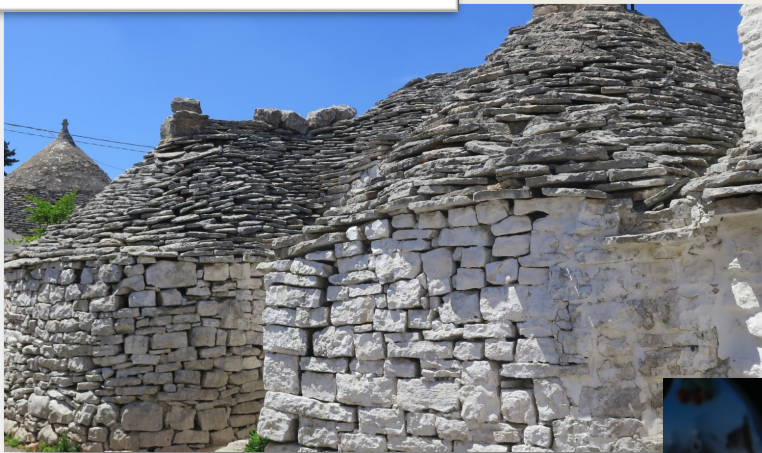


Photo History



The original peasants living in this area had to build their dwellings dry, without using mortar, so that they could be configured as precarious buildings, easily demolished.

Therefore, having to use only stones, the peasants found in the round form with self-supporting domed roof, composed of overlapping stone circles, the simplest and most solid configuration. The domed roofs or half cone for straw called the false dome of the trulli are embellished with decorative pinnacles





We organised a cab to take us to Alberello and he waited for around one and a half hours while we walked around. It was fascinating but totally touristy and that was all the time we needed. We asked the driver to drop us at the Dali exhibition back in Matera and we were amazed at how quiet it was. It was such a great Dali exhibition and I was bale to get some great shots and these are mostly in the next album (102)









Alberobello is very photogenic ..as is obvious with all the cameras whirring but impossible to get a shot without masses of tourists (just like us)







Photo History



I particularly like this shot







Photo History





Many of the caves...previously lived in are deemed unsafe (the rock is very soft) and access is not encouraged











Photo History

Matera and all around is a really wonderful setting and it was a very difficult decision which shots to select.



As we found the Dali exhibition there so atmospheric I took lots of photos there and decided to dedicate a book (or part of a book) to those shots rather than cramming them in here)

